

IMRB-SRI Report on education for children

***173. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANABHARTIA:**

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per a nation-wide survey that was carried out by IMRB-SRI of school going children aged 6 to 13 years, almost 6.94 per cent of children in this age group are out of school and out of this massive 68.26 per cent are those who never went to school and about 31.71 per cent are those who dropped out after one or more years of school;

(b) if so, what are the other main points mentioned in the survey report;

(c) whether Government have considered the survey report; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) An independent survey commissioned by the Government of India and conducted by SRI-IMRB in July-August 2005 estimated that 1.34 crore, which is 6.94% of total children in the 6-14 year age group, were out of school. The findings also estimated that 7.92% girls are 'out of school' compared with 6.18% boys in the 6-14 age group; and 7.80% children are 'out of school' in rural areas compared with 4.34% in urban areas.

(c) and (d) Government of India has shared the details of the report with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take cognisance of the findings of the report while drawing up their Annual Work Plan & Budget for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for the year 2006-07. The annual Government of India budget allocation for SSA has been enhanced to Rs. 11000 crores in 2006-07 and within that a closer targeting of districts with the most 'out of school' children has been ensured.

Care of orphaned boys and girls

***174. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:** Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Care Homes and Orphanages keep children upto the age of 18 only;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that by the time the orphan boys and girls reach the age of 18 they do not complete education enough to enable them to get employment due to factors such as ban on under age employment etc.; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to provide for retention of orphans for some more years, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, a child is defined as a person who has not completed 18 years of age. Accordingly, the children homes which may be established and maintained by the State Governments/UT Administrations under the Act, either by themselves, or in association with the voluntary organizations, for children in need of care and protection keep these children upto the age of 18 years.

(c) The Children Homes are supposed to be functioning as comprehensive child care centres and are expected to provide facilities which include education to all children according to their age and ability, either inside the home or outside. The children homes are also required to facilitate vocational training to children under the guidance of trained instructors.

The ban on employment under the Child Labour [Prohibition and Regulation] Act, 1986 as well as the National Child Labour Project [NCLP] scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment is with the intention of providing better scope for education to these children. There may, however, be children who have not completed education at the age of 18 years.

(d) Section 44 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 provides for establishment of recognition of After Care Organisations for children between the age of 17 to 18 years who may stay in these organizations till the age of 20 years. These organizations are expected to enable the children to prepare themselves for an honest, industrious and useful life after they leave children homes. Government of India has been impressing upon the State Governments the need for full implementation of the Act.